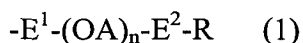


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) An allergen inactivating agent comprising a polysaccharide derivative as its effective component, wherein the polysaccharide derivative has a cellulose ether as its backbone, and some or all of hydrogen atoms in the hydroxy group of the polysaccharide derivative are substituted by a group represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein E<sup>1</sup> represents an alkylene containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group or an oxo group; n represents a number of 0 to 50; A independently represents an alkylene containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the number of A being n; E<sup>2</sup> represents an ether bond or an oxycarbonyl group; R represents an alkyl group containing 4 to 30 carbon atoms optionally substituted with hydroxy group, a sulfoalkyl group containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms optionally substituted with hydroxy group, or a salt thereof,

wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 600,000.

Claim 2. (Original) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein said allergen is selected from plant allergen, animal allergen, fungi, bacterium, and house dust.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1 wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is the one which detoxicates mite or pollen allergen.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is the one which blocks mite or pollen allergen.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is an aerosol.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A face mask comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A sheet comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1, wherein the sheet is used for a face mask.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic product wherein allergens have been inactivated, the cosmetic product comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1.

Claims 10-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 200,000.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is an aerosol.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A face mask comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A sheet comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13, wherein the sheet is used for a face mask.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic product wherein allergens have been inactivated, the cosmetic product comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 19, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 3, wherein n is from 10 to 20.